

Page 5, between line 6 and line 7, insert:

E2

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

Page 6, between line 6 and line 7, insert:

E3

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

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Page 7, between line 15 and line 16, insert:

E4

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

44. A gene expression system comprising

(1) an operon comprising:

- (a) an IF gene, or a functional analogue thereof;
- (b) a SakK gene, or a functional analogue thereof;
- (c) a SakR gene, or a functional analogue thereof; and

(2) a vector comprising a cloned polynucleotide of interest linked to a first inducible promoter,

wherein in said gene expression system, the expression product of the IF gene, or functional analogue thereof, activates the expression product of the SakK gene, or functional analogue thereof, and